

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 081080

16

ORIGIN SS-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /011 R

66617

DRAFTED BY: PM/ISO:GTCHURCHILL

APPROVED BY: PM/ISO - GTCHURCHILL

S/S-O:P.JOHNSON

----- 062905

R 092259Z APR 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDOCOSOUTH FOR POLAD

S E C R E T STATE 081080

EXDIS MIL ADDEE HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

FOLLOWING REPEAT ATHENS 2718 SENT SECSTATE INFO SECDEF JCS
USNMR SHAPE USDELMC USCINCEUR CINCUSNAVEUR CINCUSAFE NATO
DATED APRIL 8.

QUOTE

S E C R E T ATHENS 2718

EXDIS

ALL MILITARY ADDRESSEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, GR, US

SUBJECT: U.S. - GREEK BASE NEGOTIATIONS: MEETING WITH TZOUNIS

REF: A. ATHENS 2695

B. ATHENS 2613 (NOTAL)

1. DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE BERGOLD AND
DCM STEARNS CALLED ON MFA'S DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR POLITICAL
AFFAIRS JOHN TZOUNIS THIS MORNING FOR A BRIEF TOUR D'HORIZON.
REFERRING TO FIRST PLENARY SESSION OF U.S.-GREEK

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 081080

BASE NEGOTIATIONS, IN WHICH HE HAD PARTICIPATED YESTERDAY,

BERGOLD COMMENTED THAT HE HAD BEEN SOMEWHAT SURPRISED TO FIND GREEK NEGOTIATORS TAKING SO NARROW A VIEW OF WHAT CONSTITUTE U.S. FACILITIES WHICH "SERVE GREEK DEFENSE NEEDS". IT WAS THE ASSUMPTION OF THE U.S. SIDE THAT FACILITIES WHICH ENABLED US TO PLAY A STABILIZING ROLE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN WERE THEREBY STRENGTHENING GREEK DEFENSES. ACCORDINGLY, BERGOLD HAD BEEN DISTURBED TO OBSERVE A TENDENCY ON THE GREEK SIDE TO ARGUE THAT ONLY U.S. FACILITIES WHICH COULD BE DEMONSTRATED TO SUPPORT DIRECTLY THE HELLENIC ARMED SERVICES ASSISTED GREEK DEFENSE. IT THIS LINE OF REASONING WERE CARRIED TO ITS LOGICAL, OR ILLOGICAL CONCLUSION THE GREEK SIDE WOULD FIND ITSELF ARGUING THAT ONLY ANTI-AIRCRAFT AND SIMILAR WEAPONS BASED ON GREEK SOIL SERVED THE DEFENSE INTERESTS OF GREECE.

2. TZOUNIS REPLIED THAT IT WAS NOT REPEAT NOT THE GREEK INTENTION TO BE OVERLY RESTRICTIVE. "OUR POSITION IS MORE FLEXIBLE THAN IT MAY APPEAR," HE SAID, ADDING THAT THE GOG HAD TAKEN NO REPEAT NO HARD AND FAST DECISIONS ABOUT THE FUTURE OF AMERICAN FACILITIES IN GREECE. SUCH DECISIONS, IN ANY EVENT, WOULD BE TAKEN AT THE POLITICAL NOT REPEAT NOT THE TECHNICAL LEVEL. THE GREEK GOVERNMENT REGARDED THE CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS AS A MEANS OF EXPLORING VARIOUS ALTERNATIVES. THE GOVERNMENT WAS UNDER POLITICAL PRESSURE TO REDUCE THE AMERICAN PRESENCE AND THIS PRESSURE COULD NOT BE IGNORED BUT HE WAS PERSONALLY CONFIDENT THAT THE OUTCOME WOULD BE SATISFACTORY FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW AS WELL AS THE GOG'S.

3. STEARNS COMMENTED THAT THE GREEK SIDE SHOULD BE AWARE THAT THEY WERE FOLLOWING WHAT APPEARED IN WASHINGTON TO BE TWO MUTUALLY INCOMPATIBLE POLICIES. ON THE ONE HAND GREEKS WERE PUSHING US TO LIMIT OUR MILITARY PRESENCE IN GREECE; ON THE OTHER HAND, THEY WERE SEEKING LARGE AMOUNTS OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE AND ACCELERATED DELIVERIES OF HARDWARE. WE DID NOT REPEAT NOT INTEND TO LINK THESE TWO SUBJECTS IN THE NEGOTIATIONS, BUT THEIR INCONSISTENCY WOULD BE APPARENT TO ANYONE

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 081080

FOLLOWING GREEK AFFAIRS IN WASHINGTON.

4. TZOUNIS SAID THAT HE UNDERSTOOD OUR CONCERNS ON THIS POINT, BUT REPEATED THAT NO FIRM DECISIONS HAD BEEN MADE BY THE GREEK GOVERNMENT ON OUR FACILITIES. "WE WILL HEAR YOU OUT," HE SAID, "AND THEN DISCUSS THE MATTER AMONG OURSELVES." HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT HE UNDERSTOOD FROM AMBASSADOR CALOGERAS THAT OUR

PROPOSALS ON U.S. FACILITIES AT HELLINIKON (ATHENAI) AB WERE MAINLY "COSMETIC". BERGOLD REPLIED THAT THIS WAS NOT REPEAT NOT THE CASE. OUR PROPOSALS WERE QUITE FAR REACHING AND WENT WELL BEYOND APPEARANCES. IF THEY WERE ACCEPTED BY THE GREEK SIDE THE SIZE AND OPERATION OF THE BASE AT HELLINIKON WOULD DEFINITELY BE AFFECTED.

5. TZOUNIS SAID HE UNDERSTOOD WE WERE INTERESTED IN SEEING GREECE MOVE AHEAD IN ITS DISCUSSIONS WITH NATO. BERGOLD AND STEARNS SAID THIS WAS SO, AND UNDERLINED THE IMPORTANCE OF GREEK PARTICIPATION IN THE ALLIANCE. THEY SAID THAT IT WAS DIFFICULT TO DISCUSS SOME PARTS OF OUR BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP WITHOUT KNOWING WHERE GREECE WAS GOING WITH NATO. TZOUNIS SAID THE GOG IS "STILL THINKING ITS WAY THROUGH" ITS NATO RELATIONSHIP BUT THAT THE GREEK PERM REP AT NATO HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO BE IN TOUCH WITH HIS COLLEAGUES FOR DISCUSSION OF GREECE'S FUTURE IN THE ALLIANCE.

6. IN CONCLUSION, TZOUNIS SAID THAT IN ADDITION TO TAKING INTO ACCOUNT DOMESTIC POLITICAL PRESSURES THE GREEK GOVERNMENT WANTED TO PROTECT ITSELF FROM THIRD WORLD CRITICISM. HE IMPLIED THAT THIS MEANT ASSURANCES THAT THE U.S. FACILITIES COULD NOT BE USED TO SUPPORT AMERICAN OPERATIONS AGAINST THE ARABS OR IN SUPPORT OF ISRAEL IN THE EVENT OF A NEW OUTBREAK OF HOSTILITIES IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

7. COMMENT. TZOUNIS AS ALWAYS WAS FRIENDLY AND REASSURING. THE MEETING WAS USEFUL IN PERMITTING US TO OUTLINE ONCE AGAIN THE BROADER STRATEGIC CONTEXT IN WHICH THE BASE NEGOTIATIONS MUST BE CONDUCTED. WE
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 04 STATE 081080

ARE INCLINED TO ACCEPT TZOUNIS' ASSURANCES THAT AT THIS STAGE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS THE GOG HAS NOT YET REACHED FIRM CONCLUSIONS AND THAT THESE WILL ULTIMATELY BE MADE AT THE POLITICAL LEVEL, PROBABLY BY CARAMANLIS HIMSELF. TZOUNIS ALSO INDICATED THAT THE GOG DID NOT REPEAT NOT FEEL ITSELF UNDER PRESSURE TO CONCLUDE THE BASE NEGOTIATIONS QUICKLY. IT IS EVIDENT THAT GREEK FLEXIBILITY, AS CARAMANLIS HAS HIMSELF IMPLIED, CAN BE SIGNIFICANTLY AFFECTED BY DEVELOPMENTS ON CYPRUS AND IN THE AEGEAN.
KUBISCH
UNQUOTE KISSINGER

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONAL OPINION, MILITARY BASE AGREEMENTS, NEGOTIATIONS, STATUS OF FORCES AGREEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: buchantr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE081080
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: PM/ISO:GTCHURCHILL
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750124-0797
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750465/aaaacigi.tel
Line Count: 166
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 75 ATHENS 2695
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: buchantr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 JUN 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <08 OCT 2003 by buchantr>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: U.S. - GREEK BASE NEGOTIATIONS: MEETING WITH TZOUNIS
TAGS: MARR, GR, US, (TZOUNIS, JOHN)
To: COM
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006